

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: July 20, 2005

Division: County Administrator

Bulk Item: Yes      No X

Department: County Administrator

Staff Contact Person: Connie Cyr

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:**

Presentation of National Association of Counties (NACO) 2004 Achievement Awards.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:** The National Association of Counties' Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of services provided by county governments. This year, Monroe County is the recipient of four awards: Staged/Phased Evacuation through Cooperative Interagency Response Efforts, submitted by Emergency Management; Rapid Delineator Deployment System, submitted by Facilities Maintenance, Public Works; Art for Older Adults Project, submitted by Nutrition Program; Pet Friendly Special Needs Shelters, submitted by Social Services.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

NACO awards have been received in previous years.

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

N/A

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:** -0-

**BUDGETED:** Yes      No     

**COST TO COUNTY:** -0-

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**                                 

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes      No      **AMOUNT PER MONTH**      **Year**     

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty      OMB/Purchasing      Risk Management     

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

Thomas J. Willi

(TYPE NAME HERE)

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included X Not Required     

**DISPOSITION:**                                 

**AGENDA ITEM #**

## **NACo Announces Its 2005 Achievement Award Winners!**

Monroe County has won 4 National Association of Counties' (NACo) Achievement Awards. The National Association of Counties' Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government. The winning programs include: ***Staged/Phased Evacuation through Cooperative Interagency Response Efforts*** -A cooperative program that coordinates hurricane evacuation efforts between Monroe County, the Cities of Key West, Marathon, Key Colony Beach, Layton, the Village of Islands, the military, the State of Florida, the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (MCTDC), and the business community. This Staged / Phased Evacuation reduces background traffic during a mandatory evacuation of Keys residents.

***Rapid Delineator Deployment System*** – A system developed to ensure a safe and effective way to redirect traffic flow at highway sections used by Monroe County citizens in an evacuation emergency. This unique system effectively deploys up to 300 delineators with pads, at a rolling speed of approximately nine (9) miles per hour. This system efficiently prevents evacuation bottlenecks and congestion by quickly increasing evacuation routes from 2 lanes to 3 lanes.

***Art for Older Adults Project*** is a cooperative project that involved the County Nutrition Program, the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, and the VSA arts of Florida Visiting Artists Program for Adults with Disabilities, along with local visual artists. The project brought creative art to older adults who don't otherwise have the opportunity to receive art lessons. The program afforded a special opportunity for elders to explore their "creative side", interact with others in a class setting, and increase their self worth. The project provided recreational drawing lessons for elderly clients participating in the Monroe County senior lunch program.

***Pet Friendly Special Needs Shelters*** registers special needs clients and their pets. When a hurricane or other emergency threatens the Keys, the program would pick up registered special needs clients with their pets and take them to shelter. The clients are taken to their area shelter and their pets are cared for in the same shelter in a separate building, giving the clients the security of knowing their pets are close by and safe. They also have the opportunity to visit them.

Since the Achievement Award program's inception in 1970, the Achievement Award Program has honored hundreds of county government initiatives that have improved service delivery, achieved greater cost efficiency, provided finer customer service, and helped to develop a better-trained work force. In addition, the award winning programs have provided the National Association of Counties and its membership with an extensive database of successful county programs. All counties and state associations of counties are eligible to apply.

In this 36<sup>th</sup> year of the program, NACo is proud to confer the awards and recognize counties' hard work to promote responsible, responsive, and effective county government. Larry Naake, NACo Executive Director, said, " NACo is extremely pleased with the

high caliber of county programs and projects."

For further information about these programs visit the County website  
<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov>

Caption: A demonstration of the **Rapid Delineator Deployment System** was conducted on a section of Sugarloaf Boulevard located on Sugarloaf Key. A video of the demonstration was used as a part of the Annual Hurricane Briefing for Florida Governor Jeb Bush and state agency heads, to demonstrate how Florida counties are preparing for the Hurricane Season and associated evacuation procedures.